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EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT



REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending 31st December,
1940

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EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman—

COUNCILLOR JOSEPH SPOWART, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR ELKANAH WM. TOFT.

COUNCILLORS :

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„ G. Barnes	„ W. S. Jackson
„ M. Brennan, J.P.	„ T. Laing
„ E. Cain	„ W. Luke
„ T. Curry	„ M. Mann
„ A. Calvert	„ J. P. McMann
„ E. Chicken	„ J. Moore, J.P.
„ R. M. Danby	„ R.G.Nattrass, J.P.
„ A. Day	„ Mrs. E. W.
„ R. Dowson	„ Nicholson
„ B. Edwards	„ Mrs. F.M. Peart
„ W. Forster	„ E. F. Peart
„ J. Foster	„ H. Phillips
„ F. W. Fry	„ G. E. Pritchard
„ T. Callagher	„ R. G. Russell
„ J. P. Haley	„ C. Stonehouse
„ J. Henderson	„ J. Stephenson
„ D. Henegan	„ W. Weightman
„ J. Hunter	„ Mrs. F. Winter
	„ G. White

Clerk—J. J. Waring (Solicitor).

Deputy Clerk—J. W. Gray.

Accountant—C. E. Potts, A.S.A.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health—W. GRANT, M.B.,
Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H., J.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—C. W. ROBSON,
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—H. E. RAINE, M.C., M.I.My.
& Cy.E., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—J. SAVAGE, Cert.S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—R. R. SHORT, Cert.S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—W. P. ELLIOTT, Cert.S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Surveyor—C. W. CLARKE, A.M.I.Mech.E.,
F.I.A.S., A.M.I.S.E.

Cleansing Superintendent—W. ANGUS, M.Inst.P.C.

Water Superintendent—R. BLAKEY.

Thorpe Infectious Diseases Hospital Medical
Superintendent—W. GRANT, M.B., Ch.B.

Matron—MISS G. ATKINSON.

Easington Rural District.

REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health FOR THE Year ended 31st December, 1940.

EASINGTON,
Co. DURHAM,
August, 1941.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Twentieth Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year 1940.

Following instructions from the Minister of Health this report has again been curtailed and much information has been omitted that would have otherwise been included.

The schemes for Air Raid Precautions which were commenced in 1938 have been actively pursued throughout the year, and the different organisations for civil defence have attained a high standard of efficiency.

During the year there was an epidemic of measles. No fewer than 1,078 cases being notified but the great majority of these was of a mild character and there were 2 deaths.

The Birth-rate of 18.7 and the Death rate of 11.2 compares very favourably with the rest of the Country. Whilst the Infantile Death rate of 62.5 is a low record for this District.

Yours faithfully,

WM. GRANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	34,653
Registrar General's estimate of resident population since 1940	...	...	...	...	78,620
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Book	...	...	...	...	21,081
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£307,659
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	£1,119

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :—Live Births.

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	731	705	1436
Illegitimate	...	...	15	20	35
			<hr/> 746	<hr/> 725	<hr/> 1471

Birth rate per 1000 estimated resident population
18.7.

STILL- BIRTHS—

Legitimate	...	...	28	22	50
Illegitimate	...	...	2	2	4
			<hr/> 30	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 54

Rate per 1000 total births 35.4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infants under 1 year—

Legitimate	...	...	52	38	90
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	2
			<hr/> 53	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 92

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1000 live births 62.5.

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1000 legitimate live births 62.6.

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1000 illegitimate live births 57.1.

DEATHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total Deaths —	492	393	885
	—	—	—

Deate rate per 1,000 population 11.2.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was again a decrease from the previous year in the number of notifications of both scarlet fever and diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.—The number of notifications from this disease fell from 187 in 1939 to 83 in 1940.

Of these cases 47 were admitted to Thorpe Hospital. The great majority of the cases were mild and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA :—This disease showed a decrease from 418 in 1939 to 170 in 1940, and there were 10 deaths as against 22 in the previous year.

During the year 63 children were immunised. This brings the total up to 14,180 since the Council introduced its scheme of free immunisation. This number is roughly three-quarters of the child

population but it leaves still between 4,000 and 5,000 children unimmunised. Of the 173 cases of diphtheria admitted to Thorpe Hospital 33 had been immunised and there was one death, but of the 140 admitted who had not been immunised 9 died.

		No. of Children	Cases of Diphtheria	Deaths
Immunised ...	...	14,180	33	1
Not immunised	...	4,500	140	9

No stronger argument is needed than the above table as to the benefit of immunisation, and it is to be hoped that the parents or guardians of children will accept the free offer of the Council and have their children immunised. Application to their own Doctor or to the Medical Officer of Health will have immediate attention.

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria during the past 7 years :—

Year		Scarlet Fever Notifications		Deaths	Diphtheria Notifications Deaths	
1934	984	3	149	3
1935	1048	5	468	34
1936	898	7	400	29
1937	290	1	391	28
1938	423	3	682	39
1939	187	None	418	22
1940	83	None	195	10

As will be seen from the accompanying tables Diphtheria was spread throughout the whole District.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES DURING
THE YEAR.

District	Number of Cases	Estimated Population	Incidence Rate per 1000 in District		
			1938	1939	1940
Blackhall ...	37	7,900	14.38	5.95	4.23
Haswell ...	26	2,935	8.34	10.35	8.85
Wheatley Hill ...	25	5,911	3.31	3.15	4.42
Thornley ...	9	4,598	4.26	2.55	1.95
Shotton ...	33	6,192	23.42	23.11	5.32
Wingate ...	—	5,471	6.08	3.76	—
Easington ...	19	11,220	5.50	1.66	1.69
Murton ...	21	9,160	17.08	7.59	2.29
Horden ...	23	12,953	5.06	2.42	1.77
South Hetton ...	2	3,306	4.15	4.15	.60
Whole District ...	195	78,620	8.49	5.21	2.47

CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED EACH MONTH DURING 1940.

Locality	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Blackhall	4	2	2	1	4	6	4	7	3	2	1	1	37
Haswell	6	6	—	1	2	2	2	3	2	—	—	2	26
Wheatley Hill	1	1	1	4	2	6	5	3	2	—	—	—	25
Thornley	2	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	9
Shotton	7	8	3	4	3	1	3	1	2	—	1	—	33
Wingate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Easington	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	5	—	5	19
Murton	2	2	2	4	4	—	—	—	1	4	—	2	21
Horden	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	4	8	3	1	3	23
South Hetton	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	23	24	10	16	16	20	15	22	18	15	3	13	195

During the year 328 cases were admitted to your Hospital as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	238
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	47
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	8
Para-Typhoid	...	...	...	6
Measles	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Laryngitis...	...	...	...	1
Septic Tonsilitis	...	...	...	1
Acute Anaemia	...	...	...	1

46 of the cases sent in as Diphtheria were not confirmed, as was also 2 of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and 2 of Para-Typhoid Fever.

From Seaham Harbour Urban District 33 cases were received into your Hospital during the year suffering from the following diseases :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	19
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	7
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	...	3
Para Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	1

There were 15 deaths at Thorpe Hospital as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	10
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1

Bacteriological examinations made during the year were as follows :—

		Total	Positive	Negative
Phthisis	... ..	182	25	157
Diphtheria	... ..	29	10	19

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER. As most of our water comes from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company the following is a typical result of the analytical and bacteriological examination of this water.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

				Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	... ..	...	...	48.8
Chlorine as Chlorides	... ..	...	...	5.60
Nitrogen as Nitrates	... ..	...	...	0.30
Nitrogen as Nitrites	... ..	...	...	nil
Free Ammonia	... ..	...	...	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	... ..	...	...	0.0010
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°C.)	... ..	...	...	0.0025
Alkalinity	... ..	...	...	29.20
Total Hardness	... ..	...	...	28.8
Colour (Hazen degrees)	... ..	...	...	nil
Suspended Matter	... ..	...	...	nil
Iron	... ..	...	...	nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINAION.

Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours incubation at 67°C. **3** per c.

Acid and Gas production in Lactose Bile Salt Broth, 48 hours at 37°C., 1 cc. nil, 10 cc. nil, 100 cc. nil.

During the year the following extension to a water main has taken place.

Haswell : 350 yards of 4-in. main.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. All the existing sewers have received the normal care and attention and repairs effected where necessary.

The following length of sewer with accompanying manholes and equipment has been laid during the year.

Wingate : 52 yards of 12-in. sewer.

SPECIAL AREA SCHEMES.

The following work on Sewerage was performed by direct labour during the year under the Special Areas Schemes : S.A.S. 36, Wingate.

The above Scheme was completed on the 30th June, 1940, and in construction of same the following lengths of pipes were laid : 103 yards of 21-in., 1198 yards of 15-in., 185 yards of 12-in. and 112 yards of 9-in. S.A.S. 24, 47 and 48.

The above schemes were commenced in June, 1940, and the following lengths were laid during the year : 443 yards of 27-in., 107 yards of 24-in., 880 yards of 21-in. and 113 yards of 12-in.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. With the exception of outlying dwellings the water carriage system is now general throughout the District.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The removal of house refuse etc., is carried out now by the Cleansing Department for the whole area.

Total number of water closets in District	...	...	23336
Total number of ash closets and privies in Districts			325

There are at present five Morris refuse collectors and four S. & D. Freighters working in the district, together with twenty-three horse drawn vehicles. All vehicles are provided with iron sliding covers which are a protection against spilling and a prevention against any dust nuisance.

All the refuse is disposed of by tipping, this is done in layers as a precaution against fire occurring.

The salvage of paper, metal, rags and bones was commenced at the end of April, and by the end of the year records prove that this work has been successful. One motor vehicle is wholly engaged on salvage.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following conditions were found as the result of the inspections made in the District and dealt with :—

	Nuisances, etc.	Abated.
Dwelling Houses (Foul conditions)	4	4
(Structural Defects)	5	3
(Overcrowding)	2	2
Waterclosets	5	5
Ashpits and privies	1	1
Deposit of refuse and manure	4	4
Defective yard paving	1	1
House drainage	16	15
Water supply	4	4
Pigsties	2	2
Smoke nuisances	2	2
New dustbins	7	7

SCHOOLS.—It has not been necessary to have any of the schools fumigated nor has any been closed owing to infectious diseases.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.—All these were inspected during the year and found to be generally satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.—This Act, which came into operation on October 1st, 1939, gives much more control over food shops and requires all premises where food is manufactured or prepared to be registered with the Local Authority. Many inspections have been made and 34 premises were registered under the Act.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Twelve houses were disinfected during the year, and of these, ten were Council houses and two private.

During the year 378 houses were disinfected.

HOUSING.

During the year the following 192 Council houses were completed and occupied, viz :—

Shotton	...	...	...	5
Wheatley Hill	...	...	...	94
Wingate	...	...	...	37
South Hetton	...	...	...	56
				<hr/>
				192
				<hr/>

This brings the total number of Council houses to 4,623, as follows viz :—

Murton	...	...	...	599
South Hetton	...	...	...	176
Easington	...	...	...	420
Horden	...	...	...	453
Shotton	...	...	...	495
Wheatley Hill	...	...	...	709
Thornley	...	...	...	553
Wingate	...	...	...	514
Trimdon	...	...	...	154
Blaekhall	...	...	...	221
Station Town	...	...	...	89
Haswell Plough	...	...	...	194
Hesleden	...	...	...	14
Dalton-le-Dale	...	...	...	12
Seaton	...	...	...	20
				<hr/>
				4623
				<hr/>

In addition, of course, the following houses have been completed by the North Eastern Housing Association Ltd., viz :—

South Hetton	...	...	...	100
Shotton	...	...	...	252
Haswell	...	...	...	106
Deaf Hill	...	...	...	110
Murton	...	...	...	224
Monk Hesleden	...	...	...	10
				<hr/>
				802
				<hr/>

In spite of this large and (in peace time) ever increasing housing undertaking with its consequent additional rent collection difficulties, a steady decrease in the outstanding arrears continues.

The total arrears outstanding on the 31st December, 1940, was £6,612 5s. 5d., being a reduction of £717 1s. 8½d. during the year.

During the year 29 houses were erected in the District by Private Enterprise in addition to those completed by the North Eastern Housing Association referred to above.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Under the provisions of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order 1940, made by the Minister of Food, which came into operation on January 15th, 1940, the Ministry of Food became sole purchaser of fat stock for slaughter for human consumption. The Order further arranged that slaughter of such stock should only be carried out in certain specified slaughter houses and the distribution of the meat was carried out by the Wholesale Meat Supply Association acting on behalf of the Ministry to the retail trade. Station Town Co-op. Slaughter house was selected as the abattoir to serve this area.

Although occupied by a Crown Dept., and therefore not subject to licence under Section 57, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Minister desirous that normal meat inspection should continue, instructed all slaughter house managers to give the same facilities for entry to authorised meat inspectors as existed in ordinary private slaughter houses. Special arrangements have been made by the Ministry of Food for disposal of unsound meat under guarantee that such meat will not be used for human consumption.

One exception to the restrictions on slaughtering enables a person to slaughter for consumption in his own household any pig, calf, or sheep, which he has fattened himself, subject to the

issue of a licence by the Local Food Control Committee. The number of such licences issued in this Area up to 31st December, 1940, is shown in the adjoining table.

An outstanding result of this centralised slaughtering has been the opportunity to approach 100% inspection of animal carcasses with consequent arrest and disposal of all unsound meat. In previous years the Inspector responsible for meat inspection in this District has had to spread his duties over 40 licensed private slaughter houses and where, as usually happened, several butchers slaughtered during the same hours on the same day in the week, no satisfactory supervision could be exercised. This statement is not designed to cast reflection on the meat traders of this area who have generally a high regard of their obligations to the community but merely that previously quantities of unsound meat and offal have passed undetected because of the manifest impossibility of the Inspector being in several places at the same time. It should be noted at this point that the animals slaughtered at Station Town during this period were of good grade and the effect of the general culling of herds policy advocated by the Government is not felt until a later date.

An interesting comparison is made below in tabular form of total weights of condemned meat, etc., for the years 1935-40 inclusive, and attention directed to the seven fold increase during the period covered by centralized slaughtering.

Appreciation of their courtesy is expressed to all officials at Station Town Abattoir, where the Inspector has received every facility and assistance in his work.

Year Ending
31st December

Weight of
Condemned Meat, etc.

1935	2 tons, 7 cwts. 1 st. 8 lbs.
1936	1 ton, 3 cwt. 2 sts. 12 lbs.
1937	4 tons, 13 cwts. 1 st. 1 lb.
1938	2 tons, 1 cwt. 6 sts. 3 lbs.
1939	3 tons, 6 cwts. 5 sts. 13 lbs.
1940	21 tons, 1 cwt. 3 sts. 0 lbs.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed at Government Slaughter House	3164	525	306	18972	2799
Number killed under private license	—	—	1	4	69
Whole carcasses condemned (T.B. only)	10	12	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned (T.B. only)	146	—	—	—	84
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	4.81%	—	—	—	2.93%
Carcasses condem- ned (All diseases excluding T.B.)	3	1	7	—	3
Carcasses of which some part condem- ned (All diseases other than T.B.)	25	—	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	0.83%	2.27%	9.09%	0.29%	

Summary of Meat condemned during the year :—

			Sts.	lbs.	
6	Carcases of Heifer Beef...	237	13		Generalised Tuberculosis
4	Carcases of Bullock Beef	183	13		„
12	Carcases of Cow Beef ...	462	8		„
2	Part Carcases of Heifer Beef	30	7		Tuberculosis
4	Part Carcases of Bullock Beef	58	0		„
8	Part Carcases of Cow Beef	178	2		„
1	Carcase Bull Beef ...	59	5		Multiple Tumors
2	Carcases Heifer Beef ...	67	6		Septic Pericarditis
1	Carcase Cow Beef ...	40	11		Jaundice
20	Part Carcases Beef ...	145	13		Bruising, Bone Taint, Localized Oedema, etc.
7	Carcases of Calves ...	12	12		Immaturity
2	Carcases of Sheep ...	5	4		Dropsy & Ema'n.
12	Carcases of Sheep ...	50	7		Congestion and decomposition, animals morib'nd
3	Part Carcases of Sheep ...	2	8		Abcesses, inflammation
1	Carcase Sow Pig ...	24	7		Fever
1	Carcase Pork Pig ...	4	0		Oedema, 'generalized
1	Carcase Pork Pig ...	10	1		Suffocation
5	Part Carcases Pigs ...	30	13		Bruising, decomposition
4	Part Carcases Pigs ...	12	11		Tuberculosis
93	Beast Heads and Tongues	196	3		„
1	Beast Head & Tongue ...	2	2		Actinomycosis
619	Beast Livers & Pieces	974	11		Cirrhosis, T.B., Angioma, etc.
	Sundry Beast Offal (Lungs, etc.) ...	428	10		Various, principally T.B.
80	Pigs' Heads ...	97	12		Tuberculosis
	Sundry Pig Offal, (Plucks, etc.) ...	23	13		Various, principally T.B.
	Sundry Sheep Offal, (Plucks, etc.)	37	4		Various, principally Parasitic infec.

Total Weight 3379 0

21 Tons, 1 cwt., 3 sts., 0 lbs.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year 112 inspections of dairies and cowsheds were made and the general conditions of farms in the District were found to be satisfactory. Informal action was taken in a few instances for minor work.

There are 2 producers of T.T. milk and 22 producers of Accredited milk in the Area. In addition there are 100 non-designated wholesale and retail milk producers.

The pasteurizing plant situated at Wellfield is operated with every care to achieve its objective—a clean and safe milk supply. 18 retailers of pasteurized milk are registered with this Authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

WILLIAM BARLOW & SON
Printers
WEST HARTLEPOOL

P 6421